Project I.D. No. 36

NAME: Takahashi, Kamechiyo DATE OF BIRTH: 1889 PLACE OF BIRTH: Wakayama
Age: 81 Sex: F Marital Status: W Education: 6th Grade

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 2/9/1917 Age: 28 M.S. M Port of entry: San Fran.
Occupation/s: 1. Midwife 2. 3.
Place of residence: 1. San Mateo, Ca. 2. 3.
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Community organizations/activities: Husband - President of the San Mateo Japanese Association & Chairman of the Japanese School

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center:
Name of relocation center: Topaz, Utah
Dispensation of property: Names of bank/s:
Jobs held in camp: 1. 2.
Jobs held outside of camp:
Left camp to go to:

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast:
Address/es: 1. 2.
3.
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Activities: 1. 2. 3.
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death:

Name of interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe Date: 2/19/73 Place: San Mateo, Ca.
Translator: Mariko Negee

NAME: MRS. KAMECHIYO TAKAHASHI

Age: 81 years old

Birth Date: 1889

Birth Place: Wakayama - Kokowa Town in Naga County

Came to the U.S.: 1916

Major Occupation: Midwife

Relocation Camp: Topaz

Interview Date and Place: in San Mateo, California

Interviewer: Rev. Heihachiro Takarabe

Translated Date: December 1973

Translator: Mrs. Mariko Magee

NAME: MRS. KAMECHIYO TAKAHASHI

Q. First, what part of Japan are you from?

A. I'm from Wakayama.

Q. Are you?

A. Yes. Kokawa Town in Naga County.

Q. When were you born?

A. I was born in 1889. I'm eighty-one years old, going on eighty-two.

Q. I see.

A. I married in Japan. When we had our first son, Takahashi was called to the U.S. by his brother to become a storeman. His brother owned a grocery store. Since I was pregnant, my husband told me to come to the U.S. after my pregnancy was over. Then, I came here when our second child was three years old. It was in 1916.

Q. I'd like to ask you about your life in Japan?

A. Yes.

Q. How far did you go educationally?

A. As I didn't like studying too much, I went up to the sixth grade in an elementary school. Passing a license examination for sewing teachers, I have a license to teach sewing.

Q. I see. Do you remember your school days? Teachers and some other things?

A. I don't remember them too well, for it was about seventy years ago... .

Q. Any fun?

A. I was always worried about examinations. But in sewing school, I was usually the first to complete a sewing project and to hand it to a teacher. I fully realized that it was important to develop your own interests. I had to prepare hard for the license examination ...

Q. How long did you attend the sewing school?

A. Not being old enough, I couldn't attend a regular sewing school. I found a place where I could learn only how to sew. As soon as I reached the age, I entered a regular sewing school and completed a four-year curriculum. Graduating from the regular curriculum, I served as a teacher's assistant for two years. I was at the school for six years all together. I took the license examination after I got married to Takahashi.

Q. How old were you when you married?

A. I was nineteen years old. I got married during a summer vacation. Takahashi was also a school teacher. Since my birthday is in March, I was nineteen years and five months old when I married.

Q. What is your maiden name?

A. My maiden name is Kamechiyo Morishita.

Q. Where did you meet Mr. Takahashi?

A. I met him when I was teaching at school. His house was two miles away from mine, which was pretty far to walk.

Q. Did you have a go-between?

A. Yes. My father died when I was four, and my mother raised us by herself. My brother was in the U.S. Not having a higher education himself, my brother wanted me to get a higher education, at least. He wrote me that he would send me money for my education. But I didn't like studying. When it came to sewing, I could figure out how to cut a material right no matter how complicated it was. At school, math was all right, because I needed it for sewing. Geography and History weren't for me.

Q. How large was your family?

A. I had one sister and two brothers. All have passed away.

Q. What was your father's occupation?

A. My father was a farmer. We lived in the country.

Q. How much farm land did he have?

A. He had six "tan"[1] of land for rice; in addition, he had a mulberry field, because he was raising silkworms.

Q. Did your brother come to the U.S.

A. Yes, he did, when I was little.

Q. Was he the first one in your family to come here?

A. Yes. Since my mother was alone, I and my children lived with her while Takahashi was in the U.S. by himself. I wrote my brother to return to Japan to take care of my mother, but he didn't return. On the other hand, Takahashi warned me that my immigration visa would expire if I didn't leave Japan right away. My mother told me that I should go to my husband. She hoped my

---

[1] An old-fashioned Japanese measure for land.

A. brother would return to her if I went ahead and left her. As soon as I arrived here, my brother closed down his bicycle store in Riverside and went back to Japan.

Q. I see. When did you come here?

A. I left home in 1916 and got here on the nineth of February in 1917. It was a Friday night. Takahashi and my brother came to see me at a harbor. They said, "Tomorrow is Saturday, the following day is Sunday, and then Monday is Lincoln's birthday ..." I left Japan in December of 1916, and I was supposed to get here within the same month. But in Yokohama, I was forced to delay my departure because I had roundworms. After taking a lot of medicine and examinations of feces, I got on the next boat. I arrived here in February of 1917. Takahashi and my brother told me that no immigration officers would come till Tuesday, because Monday was a holiday. Promising to pick me up on Tuesday, they left. I remained on board for a while. Then, I went to the immigration office on Angel Island and stayed there for three days. There were many women there who'd come for "picture-marriages". Being a married woman, I was called up first. It was really easy to go through immigration procedures. Takahashi and my brother picked me up and took me ... by car.

Q. What was Angel Island like? Did you like it there?

A. I had never seen such a prison-like place. I wondered why I had to be kept in a prison after I'd arrived in the U.S. My sister-in-law, who had experienced the same thing

A. at the immigration office before, sent in "osushi"[2] to me. Not knowing the situation well, I shared it all with the people around me.

Q. Oh, did she bring it when you arrived here?

A. Yes. She meant to substitute it for the meals at the immigration office. I shared it all with others before I got to Angel Island. Chinese food is supposed to be good, now. I had eaten Chinese food before in Yokohama. No rice was as smelly as the kind I ate on Angel Island. I ate only a slice of toast with coffee for breakfast. I couldn't stand the rice for lunch and dinner. I regretted not having kept the "osushi".

Q. Were meals the only thing you suffered over?

A. There were threefold wire nets on the wall. There was a big wire net outside, a thick wire net in the middle, and a screen door inside. It looked just like a prison. I regretted having come to such a place. I wondered what the place I was going to would be like. I trusted Takahashi, because he had sent me a picture of a nice place, where he had a store downstairs and lived upstairs. I felt relieved to see that the business which had been run by Takahashi's brother was prosperous. I landed on the thirteenth of February; on the twenty-fourth, even before I opened up my business as a midwife, I helped my sister-in-law deliver a baby. My brother urged me to

---

[2] A Japanese rice dish.

A. come here, because his baby was on the way. I stayed in my brother's place, and helped him and his wife with their baby. It was the first time for me to cut a navel string in the U.S. A license wasn't required to become a midwife till June of 1917. Then, I had to take a license examination. Japanese people coming here today have a fundamental knowledge of English. Not being able to understand English, I got help from an attorney named Okawara, who was a Nisei. His father must have come here a long time before. He interpreted for me during the examination. Getting a license, I formally opened my business as the Takahashi Clinic of Midwifery. I ran that business until I got very sick in 1929. I had an assistant midwife who helped me whenever I needed her. I myself took full responsibility and called a doctor for any abnormal deliveries. My assistant told me to stop working and take it easy. Takahashi said that it was natural for him to work but I shouldn't work that hard. Wives, who didn't have anybody to help them, came to my clinic to deliver their babies. In the beginning, I had only mothers and babies; later on, mothers brought their big children, too. The "picture-marriage" was banned by the "New Immigration Law" of 1924; so, a number of Issei males went back to Japan and brought their brides with them. At that time, I performed deliveries almost every day. I guess I overworked myself into a heavy sickness. Takahashi told me to have a rest for a long while. I

A. stopped working after I finished with the ones who had already been under my care.

Q. Let's go back to the beginning a little bit. How long did it take for you to learn widwifery?

A. I went to a nurse's training school for a year. After the nurse's training school, I went to a midwife's training school for two years. I studied only theories during the first year. I practiced midwifery during the second year. Practice is the most important thing for a midwife; she needs a special technique to learn through practice. These days doctors make a delivery quickly, but I believe in a natural, physiological delivery. In Japan, people avoid doctors as much as they can. I assisted ... midwife. The more deliveries she experiences, the better midwife she can be. She has to experience various deliveries; easy ones and hard ones. I practiced at a clinic of midwifery attached to the Wakayama prefectual hospital. I took both of my children with me when I went to school; so, I rented a house for the three of us.

Q. Did you go to school after you were married?

A. Takahashi wrote me to learn midwifery, because Japanese pregnant women in San Francisco who didn't understand English needed a Japanese midwife very badly. That's why I decided to study midwifery before leaving Japan.

Q. You studied it for three years, didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. That's great!

A. Takahashi left Japan when I was in my seventh month of pregnancy. A baby had been born before I started attending school. It was tough for me to study with a little one. My mother said how pitiful I was to have to study in order to go to the U.S. in spite of my dislike of studying. Though I was ready to teach sewing, I changed my mind after reading his letter. As soon as I got here, I learned how to drive by driving to South San Francisco and ... .

Q. Did you go here and there?

A. It was easy to drive in South San Francisco and ... at that time, because there weren't as many cars as today there. Not only performing deliveries but also giving a bath to babies was my daily task. I found it difficult to get a means of transportation in the local areas. Whenever I got off a train at the local stations, I had to wait for somebody to pick me up, which was a nuisance. That's why I learned how to drive first of all.

Q. How many people a day did you take care of?

A. I took care of two or three patients a day at most. I'm sure I've performed almost three hundred deliveries.

Q. Three hundred! That's great!

A. ... I took them to a hospital many times, too.

Q. Did you work till 1939?

A. Yes, till I got sick.

Q. Lots of things must have happened during that time. What do you remember?

A. During examinations, I sometimes found a twin fetus. Not all the fetuses came down to the placenta in time. It's normal for pregnant women to have swollen legs, but I had to find out whether the swell was caused by pregnancy or disease. A midwife isn't supposed to heal sickness; however, she has to find it and consult doctors in time. I became a Christian in 1926. When Takahashi was sick in bed, I had to work and look after him at the same time; I didn't have anybody to help me work out my problems. Accepting the Christian faith, I learned that Lord would be able to do things which I couldn't. I learned to pray for His help. I really felt grateful for His help. Our son, who we'd called from Japan got a stomach ulcer at the age of seventeen. I stunned to see him vomit blood. Being a Christian, I put a picture of Jesus Christ in his sickroom. I told him that that he wasn't alone and that he should pray for Jesus Christ to heal his ailment. When Takahashi had become very sick for the first time, I wasn't a Christian. Not being too religious, I went to a Buddhist temple just for special occasions, such as a funeral service. After I was baptized, I prayed for pregnant women to have normal deliveries. I visited them once a month between their third and eighth month of pregnancy, and more after that. Takahashi became sick

A. again later. As a Christian, I found myself calm in the car or bus on my way to see him in the hospital. I was sure that Jesus would take care of Takahashi. I always had peace of mind, which was the happiest thing for me. Takahashi didn't agree to be baptized himself. He said that he wouldn't bother me about my faith, but at the same time he didn't want to be forced to get baptized himself. Meanwhile, our children started attending Sunday school. I was baptized at ... church in San Francisco. There weren't any established churches around here in those days. Takahashi said it'd be better to get baptized in San Francisco, for people might have meetings and sing hymns in our place if I got baptized at a local church.

Q. When did you get baptized?

A. I'm sure it was in 1926.

Q. Where was the Takahashi clinic located?

A. At first, I found a small house with some rooms in .... Later on, I moved to a bigger house with more rooms located on Clemente Street where Takahashi's store was.

Q. Then, did pregnant women have deliveries at your clinic?

A. If they had any helper, they had their deliveries at home.

Q. How many beds did you have?

A. I had three beds at most. Today if you have a delivery in a hospital, you'll be leaving there within a few days. At that time, you were supposed to stay in a clinic or

A. a hospital for a few weeks. I kept mothers in my clinic for two weeks, providing Japanese food. Being a grocery owner, Takahashi told me to cook good food for my patients. He didn't want me, a grocery owner's wife, to have a poor reputation in cooking. My patients from San Francisco and San Jose enjoyed staying in my clinic, for they didn't have to pay too much and also they could eat Japanese food. Having been interested in sewing, I didn't know cooking too well; so, I had to study cooking very hard. Takahashi himself was an epicurean. Anyway, I tried to cook nutritious food which looked and tasted delicious.

Q. How much did you charge?

A. I charged twenty-five dollars for labor and delivery. I charged two dollars a day for room and board. Later on, I raised the price to thirty dollars, and then forty dollars ... . As the standard charge was raised in San Francisco. Not like a hospital, I served tea when husbands visited wives in my clinic on Sundays. I was so busy that I had someone to work as a diaper-washer from eight o'clock in the morning.

Q. How many patients did you visit by car in a day? One or two patients?

A. No, three. Before leaving home, I planned my visits according to the locations. It didn't take too much time to examine a patient.

Q. Did you visit a patient once a month?

A. Yes. As her scheduled day drew near, I visited her twice a month. If a patient had some abnormality, I visited her more often. In such cases, I took her feces and

A. had a doctor examine it. The doctor, German, was kind enough to come to me whenever I needed him.

Q. Do you remember each baby you took care of?

A. I remember the first ten babies very well.

Q. What do you remember?

A. The first baby I delivered right after arriving in the U.S. was unforgettable. The baby was my brother's son. Though I had practiced midwifery for a year in Japan before I came here, I had a tough time with my first delivery here. The mother was so selfish that I almost couldn't prevent myself from crying. The baby weighed nine pounds and ten ounces. When the baby cried for the first time after his birth, my brother asked me to check if the baby had normal limbs. I remember delivering twins. I and the mother had known for a long time that the fetus would be twins. At the delivery, the first baby came out all right; however, the second one didn't come out even after the placenta came out. The placenta shouldn't come out before the baby, because a fetus breaths through the placenta. I put the placenta back as soon as I could. I warned the father that the second baby might be dead. He said that he had one all right, at least. Though I had been practicing midwifery in the U.S. for quite a long time, then, that was the very first time for me to deliver a twin.

Q. Did the second baby die?

A. Yes,he did. I tried artificial respiration on him; however, I couldn't bring him back to life. The baby had already been dead before he came out. The first baby grew up to be a healthy man, and he's married now.

Q. It must have been a hard experience for you.

A. Yes. A fetus whose heart doesn't beat inside a mother's stomach usually can't be revived no matter how hard you apply artificial respiration. If a baby is syncopic, he may be revived through artificial respiration. Two women with problem pregnancies left me and transferred to a hospital, where they got Caesarean operations. Both mothers and babies were fine. Takahashi's brother told me about one pregnant woman who killed herself by cutting her tongue during her delivery, for her delivery was disastrously hard. He said he couldn't help noticing pregnant women and wishing them good luck, because I was a midwife. Fortunately, I didn't have too many abnormal deliveries among my patients. One woman began to labor as soon as she got to the U.S. Anyway, none of my patients had eclampsia. Eclampsia means that a baby doesn't come out although a mother makes a hard effort. My daughter-in-law had eclampsia when she bore her first baby.

Q. What's eclampsia?

A. At the same time the labor paid begins, a mother has a cramp, and her womb doesn't open. If a fetus stays in a

A. womb too long, it may die. So you have to draw him out. Having a hard delivery, my daughter-in-law was told not to have another baby for three years. She wanted to have her second baby three years later, but it was five years after her first baby had come that she was blessed with her second one. Not every pregnance is hard. A midwife, who deals with peoples' lives, has a heavy responsibility. Being a Christian, I believed that Jesus would help me and I felt at peace. Every human being is weak. No matter how learned he is, he needs to depend on something in his time of trouble.

Q. Did you stop midwifery completely after 1939?

A. Yes, except for the urgent ones at their places.

Q. The majority of the Nisei had been born by 1939.

A. You're right.

Q. Had you met quite a few of the brides of "picture-marriages", who had rather unhappy lives here?

A. It took twenty-one days to get to San Francisco by "Nihon-maru". I met a bride of a "picture-marriage" from Hiroshima, who was looking at a picture of her husband and worried about her future. When we got to San Francisco, she didn't want to land. She cried and insisted on going back to Japan. One of the crew told her how much money her future husband had spent for her. He suggested that she should decide whether she would go back to Japan or not after discussing it with her

A. husband-to-be. She never listened to the suggestion and went back to Japan on the same boat. I heard a lot about the "picture-marriage." That girl was the only one I had any direct experience with.

Q. What had you heard about the "picture-marriage?"

A. That girl had been told that her future husband owned a large farm, but she heard from somebody on board that he wasn't such a big man. Being from a well-to-do family, she didn't want to marry a poor peasant. In San Francisco, I saw grooms with pictures in their hands announcing their names and addresses, and calling out to their brides. The brides also had the pictures of their grooms and answered as their names were called out. But that girl never answered.

Q. What were the other girls like?

A. Except for her, everybody on our boat was all right. After the "New Immigration Law" had been passed, there weren't any tragedies like that. Men went back to Japan and met their brides directly.

Q. As you visited various wives from Japan, were they all happy?

A. Some of them were so poor that they couldn't afford electricity. They used lamps instead. Being ignorant of sanity, they didn't have any absorbent cotton, disinfectant, or ether. I couldn't believe this was actually happening in the U.S. Fifty to sixty years ago, the homes around Humboldt were about three thousand dollars. ...

A. had nothing but just farms all over. Japanese farmers there put their babies on a straw mat beside them while they worked on the farms. I had never seen such a thing in Japan. Farmers in Japan hired a babysitter for their babies; here, they couldn't afford one. They ate rice and "miso soup" in the morning even in the U.S. No wonder the brides of "picture-marriages" suffered a lot. They were terribly poor. I was lucky to have a business-man as my husband. In Japan, people never washed clothes in a kitchen sink. I was stunned to see people here washing their stockings in a kitchen sink. Sometimes during the winter season, I couldn't get water at my patients' places here, for the faucets outside were frozen. I made a fire around the faucets, so that the heated air went through the ground and melted the ice. One woman who'd had a baby during the New Year's season called me within the same year. Being ashamed of herself to become pregnant again, she kept silent to me.

Q. She didn't tell you ...?

A. Right. I didn't examine or treat her at all.

Q. Did she call you abruptly when she began to labor?

A. Yes. Nowadays, the Issei don't have pregnancies, and the Nisei go to a hospital. They know a lot about child care. The hospitals in our day kept mothers for two weeks, but these days the hospitals release them after three days.

Q. Were you the only midwife in this area?

A. Yes, I was. There were three midwives in San Francisco and one in San Jose. I didn't know about the Fresno area. After I began my clinic, one more midwife came to San Jose. She didn't stay there too long, though. The country Japanese people in San Jose at that time didn't consult a midwife. Husbands did everything. It was unsanitary and dangerous. Getting nurses' training for a year in Japan, I was sensible of such things. I told my patients to prepare the sanitary necessities by the eighth month. During the depression days, some of my patients didn't pay the fee of twenty-five dollars. It was believed in Japan that doctors were to serve people; therefore, I put up with my patients who didn't pay the fee. Sickness attacks you unexpectedly, but childbirth is scheduled for nine months and ten days. You should plan ahead and save money little by little.

Q. Husbands in Japan at that time even divorced their wives if they didn't bear any boys at all. How were the husbands here?

A. They wouldn't do such a thing here. They thought it natural for mothers to be happy to have daughters. One couple had eleven children. I took care of seven of them. Though this couple couldn't afford the fee at the time of deliveries during the depression days, they came and paid me after the war. Their sons went to the war,

A. and all came back home safely. They're fine adults now. Some people were honest like them, whereas others took advantage of me. Having sold on credit, Takahashi didn't get all the bills paid by his customers, either. We were evacuated into a camp without having cleared our bills.

Q. What was your first impression of the U.S. when you arrived in San Francisco?

A. Having often heard about the U.S. from Takahashi and my brother before, I expected the U.S. to have been more developed. As I lived on the upper floor of the store building, I couldn't see too much difference between Japanese life and American life.

Q. What did you think about Caucasians?

A. I thought them very kind. Though there're many blacks now, there weren't too many at that time. When I saw a black man for the first time in Yokohama before I left Japan, I was agape. Even Mexicans and Italians were small in number. They shopped at Takahashi's store once in a while. I had no idea why Mexicans called me Maria. Takahashi said this was the name they used for a woman they didn't know.

Q. Do you remember anything joyful, irritating, funny or troublesome from those days?

A. Being a school teacher, Takahashi was a sort of a square in Japan. Being reunited with him after three years and four months, I was startled to see him drink. Moreover,

A. he played cards and came back home late quite frequently. I told my brother that when he got to Japan, he shouldn't tell my mother how Takahashi had changed. My mother was fond of Takahashi, because he was well-behaved. I didn't want my mother to worry about me. Takahashi's drastic change was a great shock to me. I missed my mother, who'd helped me a great deal with my children and other things. Drinking caused Takahashi to have a serious stomach ailment. Dr. Kadono said that he had cancer and even if he underwent an operation, he would live only for a year and a half. It was two years since I had got here. We hadn't called our son to the U.S. yet at that time. I and Takahashi's brother persuaded him to consult another doctor before we gave up. We consulted Dr. Takao, a Christian doctor. He said there would be a chance if he operated on Takahashi right away. He found it not to be cancer. Not like cancer, "sarukoma" is a tumor without any roots, which can be operated on more safely. Then Takahashi underwent an operation.

Q. When was it?

A. It was in 1926.

Q. Were you still working then?

A. Yes, I was. While he was in his convalescense at home, I had to take care of him and work at the same time. I could overcome such a hardship because of my faith in Christ. I was ready to go back to Japan, taking all my family, in the event that Takahashi's illness was fatal.

A. Not only I, but also all of the congregation at church prayed for him. Then Takahashi began to recover steadily. At the time he had vomitted a lot of blood due to a stomach ulcer. I wasn't a Christian and I didn't have anybody to pray for him. It was easier for me to put up with his second illness because of my faith.

Q. Was it your son who vomitted blood?

A. No, it was my husband. We had two sons. The boy, whom we called from Japan at the age of eight, got a stomach ulcer and vomitted blood during his high school days. He was seventeen years old. We took him to a hospital by ambulance. Takahashi gave a blood transfusion to our son at the hospital. I thanked God for saving our son. Takahashi went to an evacuation camp in May and died of cerebral apoplexy in November. There were quite a few Japanese people from Sacramento in the camp. Mr. Hosokawa was one of them. While I was in the hospital, I saw him and almost mistook him for my husband, for he looked just like my husband from behind. I wished my husband had been alive. My son married a daughter of Mr. Washino. I told Mr. Washino about Mr. Hosokawa in Sacramento who reminded me of my husband every time I saw him. Having a stroke of apoplexy, my husband passed away all of the sudden. I made a desparate effort to endure the hardship. I wished I had been sent for by the Lord with my husband. Our older son had been married by the time we went to the evacuation camp. Our younger son received his diploma by

A. mail in the camp. We had bought a house and my husband had been happy to smell trees in the garden up until we were evacuated. We lived there only for a year and four months. Takahashi was fine for awhile in the camp. I guess he got high blood pressure being worried about my illness. He visited me in the hospital during the visitor's hours at three in the afternoon. One day, he told me that he would visit me again in the evening and asked me if I wanted him to bring me anything. That was our last conversation.

Q. Were you also sick at that time?

A. Yes. My husband was president of the San Mateo Japanese Association and also a chairman of the Japanese school. There was a list of Japanese people to be arrested in those days. We heard that Takahashi was on the list. Meanwhile, his brother, who was treasurer of the Japanese school, got arrested. Takahashi came back home on that day and vomitted blood. As this was during the war, he couldn't enter ... Hospital. I was working as a dressmaker for a white family, the husband being the chairman of ... Hospital. Though the man liked me and wanted to help my husband, he couldn't arrange a special accommodation for my husband due to the objection of others. Therefore, my husband entered a county hospital. Being shaken on a stretcher, he vomitted blood again on the way to the hospital. Rev. Bachen, who was a minister of the Congregational Church, told a director of the county hospital to take care of the Japanese patients there.

A. Then, all of the doctors and nurses looked after them very well. He is a great man; he's working as a successful director in the East. After he came to the church here, the size of the congregation doubled, because people adored his kind and sincere personality. The church was so full that people had to go upstairs to get seats every time he gave a sermon. He still visits us here once in a while. Serving as a Sunday school teacher of the Congregational Church, our son was told by the minister that we should have told him about Takahashi's illness sooner. Having seen his brother being arrested, Takahashi was so worried that he vomitted blood. I packed two suitcases in case Takahashi should be arrested. But he never needed them. Being exhausted, I got acute ... and was hospitalized. My husband visited me every afternoon and evening. One evening when I was wondering why he hadn't showed up yet, our son came and told me that Takahashi had a fit of apoplexy and been carried to a hospital. He didn't intend to tell me if my husband had recovered all right. Takahashi never got well. Being weak myself, I almost couldn't bear my husband's death. I read the Bible over and over with tears, and thanked the Lord that my husband, having suffered from a serious illness, could live till our sons grew up, at least. My life in Topaz Camp was miserable.

Q. What did you think when Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan?

A. It happened after a Sunday service. We felt Japan had done a terrible thing. Predicting a war between Japan

A. and the U.S., Takahashi had been hoping to go back to Japan. Our younger son, having been born in the U.S., considered himself as an American and he didn't want to go back to Japan. Our older son, though he was born in Japan, didn't want to go back to Japan, either. He said that he had graduated from a college here and would like to stay here. They told us to go by ourselves leaving them here. They also said that they would call us back here whenever we wanted to return to the U.S. But we didn't want to go back to Japan just by ourselves. Then, we decided to stay here and bought a house. It was great to own a house of our own. Even mowing weeds gave us pleasure. In the meantime, the war started and Takahashi regreted having bought a house.

# # # # #